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Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our Father, in spite of the violence and the strife in our world, we pause to thank You for Your blessings. Thank You for the resiliency of the human spirit that often shines brightest during the darkest hours. Thank You for the examples of those who are willing to sacrifice even life itself for freedom. Thank You for the visions and ideals You have planted in the hearts of our legislative leaders and for their commitment to excellence. Thank You for the opportunity to labor for a world at peace and for those who toil for the day when we will study war no more.

Above all, we thank You for the blessing of Your love revealed by Your gift of salvation to our world. Accept this, our sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business until 10 a.m. with the time equally divided.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning at 10 a.m. we will resume debate on the stem cell issue with each 30 minutes alternating between the two sides. We have the designated times locked in with three votes occurring in a stacked sequence beginning at 3:45 today.

I thank the Members who were available yesterday for the debate. We had a good debate, an important debate, on the whole range of ethical and scientific issues which were introduced and talked about yesterday in that debate, and I am sure it will be constructive, with that same cooperative dialog and spirit today. We have a limited amount of time for closing remarks, so Senators should be on the floor of the Senate during their speaking blocks, and if there is any time available in those speaking blocks, that time will be appropriately allocated.

We will recess today as usual from 12:30 until 2:15 for the weekly policy meetings, and later on this afternoon, we will also begin work on the Water Resources Development Act. We have a time agreement which limits the amendments to the so-called WRDA—the Water Resources Development Act—and we expect to begin debate on some of those amendments this afternoon and evening.

Other items that may be considered this week include some circuit and district judges that have been reported by the Judiciary Committee. We mentioned the Child Custody Protection Act, and we have mentioned the Voting Rights Act. So we will have a busy week.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, with respect to the debate time today regarding the stem cell legislation, I ask unanimous consent that the Democratic time be controlled as follows: From 10:30 to 11 a.m., Senators LAUTENBERG, CLINTON, and MIKULSKI each controlling 10 minutes; from 11:30 to 12 o'clock noon, Senators KOHL and LINCOLN each controlling 5 minutes, and Senators CARPER and JOHN KERRY each controlling 10 minutes; from 12:15 to 12:30, Senators FEINGOLD and SCHUMER each controlling 7½ minutes; and from 2:45 to 3:15 p.m., Senator MENENDEZ, 3 minutes, Senators FEINSTEIN, KENNEDY, and HARKIN each controlling 8 minutes.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Would the Chair advise me as to the current state of business on the floor?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The time until 10 a.m. is equally divided between the parties.

STEM CELL RESEARCH

Mr. DURBIN. Thank you very much, Mr. President. Speaking on the minority side, I would like to say that we face a historic vote today on stem cell

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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